

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INFO CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MORG, MG

SUBJ: NEW CHIEF OF AIR STAFF APPOINTED

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ON OCTOBER 16, AIR VICE MARSHALL M.G. TAWAB TOOK OVER AS CHIEF OF AIR STAFF OF THE BANGLADESH AIR FORCE. HE SUCCEEDS AIR VICE MARSHALL A.K. KHANDAKER WHOSE TENURE AS CHIEF HAS ACCORDING TO THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT, "EXPIRED" AND WHOSE SERVICES HAVE BEEN PLACED (LIKE THOSE OF GENERAL SHAFIULLAH) AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY RELEASED BY THE DEFENSE MINISTRY, MUHAMMED GHULAM TAWAB WAS BORN IN 1930, GRADUATED FROM DACCA UNIVERSITY AND JOINED THE PAKISTAN AIR FORCE IN JANUARY 1950. HE ATTENDED VARIOUS FIGHTER, GUNNERY AND TACTICS COURSES IN THE UK AND THE USA, AND SERVED AS A FLYING INSTRUCTOR ON EXCHANGE POSTING AT THE NATO FLYING SCHOOL IN GERMANY. IN THE PAKISTAN AIR FORCE HE HELD VARIOUS COMMAND AND STAFF APPOINTMENTS INCLUDING ASSISTANT CHIEF OF AIR STAFF (TRAINING). ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY, TAWAB RESIGNED FROM THE PAF IN APRIL 1971, AFTER THE

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CRACKDOWN IN EAST BENGAL, AND WENT TO WESTERN EUROPE.

IN 1972 HE BECAME CHIEF OF STAFF (OPERATION) IN THE
BAF. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. ACCORDING TO OUR
SOURCES, OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY OF TAWAB'S LATER CAREER IS
A SHADE MISLEADING. WHEN CRACKDOWN CAME IN 1971 TAWAB
WAS POSTED TO PAKISTANI EMBASSY IN BONN FROM WHICH HE
DEFECTED. CHIEF OF OPERATIONS IN THE BAF IN
EARLY 1972, HE WAS A RIVAL OF A.K. KHANDAKER, HIS
JUNIOR IN RANK. WHEN KHANDAKER BECAME CHIEF OF STAFF,
TAWAB ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED A POSTING TO THE BDG MISSION
IN BONN (HIS WIFE IS GERMAN). THE LATE PRESIDENT,
SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN, HAD WANTED TAWAB TO RETURN IN
1974 TO TAKE OVER THE NATIONAL AIRLINES BUT TAWAB RE-
FUSED UNLESS HE WERE GIVEN TOTAL AUTHORITY WITH NO
INTERFERENCE.

4. TAWAB WAS RECALLED TO DACCA ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO.
BECAUSE HE IS THE SENIOR BANGALEE ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE
AIR FORCE, HIS APPOINTMENT APPEARS TO BE GENERALLY
ACCEPTED IN THE AIR FORCE. HIS FIRST ACTION AS CHIEF
OF STAFF WAS TO TAKE A WELL PUBLICIZED FLIGHT IN A
MIG 21, REPORTEDLY HIS FIRST TIME AT THE CONTROLS IN
OVER FOUR YEARS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
BOSTER

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